NSCEB
National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

www.biotech.senate.gov

Biotechnology Diplomacy and Expertise Enhancement Act of 2026

Overview

The **Biotechnology Diplomacy and Expertise Enhacement Act of 2026** (**H.R. 9923**) would expand the State Department's Regional Technology Officer (RTO) program to include biotechnology expertise, helping the United States lead in global biotechnology diplomacy, security, and innovation. To support this goal, the bill would:

- Direct the Secretary of State to hire and train RTOs with specialized knowledge in biotechnology and emerging biotechnologies;
- Ensure RTOs are deployed to regions where biotechnology developments are critical to U.S. foreign policy interests; and
- Promote international engagements to support U.S. leadership in biotechnology.

Background

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) assessed in April 2025 that U.S. diplomats must understand biotechnology and its geopolitical implications in order to cement U.S. global leadership, mobilize the collective strengths of allies and partners, and counter China's growing influence in emerging biotechnologies.

Better resourcing U.S. diplomats with expertise in emerging biotechnology through the U.S. Department of State's (DOS) RTO program would sharpen U.S. biotechnology diplomacy, allow for more knowledgeable information gathering, and put the United States in a stronger position to negotiate and leverage international technology agreements.

H.R. 9923

Sponsor:
Del. James Moylan
(R-GU-At Large)

Original Co-Sponsor:
Rep. Madeleine Dean
(D-PA-04)
Rep. Seth Moulton
(D-MA-06)

Available for Senate introduction

Congress established the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) to assess biotechnology's national security impact and recommend strategies to ensure American leadership.

Read the NSCEB's April 2025 report at https://www.biotech.senate.gov/final-report

Legislative Details

01 RTO Program Expansion and Purpose

The Secretary of State is directed to:

- Expand the RTO program by recruiting biotechnology experts;
- Train new and current RTOs in biotechnology fields such as gene editing, synthetic biology, biosecurity, and international biotechnology policy; and
- Ensure RTOs support U.S. foreign policy objectives in innovation, security, trade and responsible use of biotechnology.

02 Biotechnology Training Areas

Training programs will cover advances in biotechnology, biosecurity and biosafety, ethical uses of biotechnology, international biotechnology regulations, and biotechnology diplomacy.

03 International Engagement and Deployment

RTOs with biotechnology expertise will be placed in regions with strategic partnership opportunities, growing biotechnology sectors and emerging biotechnology-related security risks.

04 Implementation and Reporting

Within 180 days, the Secretary must submit an implementation plan to Congress detailing hiring strategies, training frameworks and expansion timelines. Annual reports will track the number of RTOs trained and deployed and results from biotechnology diplomacy and international partnerships.

Interested in leading or co-sponsoring this bill?

Please contact ideas@biotech.senate.gov

